

Life's been fabulous for 'Queer Eye' exec

By JOYCE PIRES
The Patriot Ledger

It is miles from the Duxbury paper route David Metzler had as a kid to the sunshine and glitz of the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, where he won his first Emmy Awards.

But with passion and commitment, Metzler made the trip.

The Duxbury native and former Patriot Ledger paperboy won the Emmy Award last fall as executive producer for "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," the popular, groundbreaking TV series, where gay men do makeovers on straight men. The show won for 2004 Outstanding Reality Program.



Metzler

"I always wanted to work in film and television," including when he was growing up in Duxbury, said Metzler, 33.

Metzler, who now lives in Los Angeles, is a Duxbury High School graduate. He said he plans to attend his 15th-year class reunion in the fall.

"When I got out of college I hooked up with Scout Productions in Boston. I knew a lot of people in Boston with successful careers in film and television," he said.

"I decided not to go directly to New York or Los Angeles. Here I knew people, there I would be starting all over again not knowing anyone."

The show's attitude, edge and good-natured humor have helped it soar in popularity and become a fixture in pop culture.

David Collins, co-founder of Scout Productions with Metzler, came up with the idea after going to a South End art gallery opening.

He came into the office, said Metzler, and said he saw a woman berating her husband about what he was wearing.

She asked him why he couldn't dress like a group of men who were there at the opening. They happened to be gay, came over to the couple and told the woman to take it easy. With a little love, they said, her husband had a lot of potential.

Collins thought "queer eye for the straight guy."

"I thought it was a great idea, genius — gay guys making over a straight guy. Bravo, loved it," he said.

And the rest is history.

"Queer Eye" is now seen in 120 countries and there are 20 international versions.

With Collins, Metzler developed the format, narrative style and visual design for the show.

And how has success affected the Duxbury home boy?

"It's been very exciting. When we first thought up the show three years ago, who would have known all of this would happen?" he said.

"Life's a lot different," he said, "but things have stayed the same in some ways and different in others," he said.

"The important things have stayed the same, the things you've always had — your family, friends — and we've had a lot of fun together with this," Metzler said.

Along with the Emmy, he also won the 2004 producer of the year award from the Producer's Guild of America.